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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/652,359	08/29/2003	David W. Grunow	16356.821 (DC-05237)	1316
27683	7590	02/24/2005	EXAMINER	
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP 901 MAIN STREET, SUITE 3100 DALLAS, TX 75202			PAPE, ZACHARY	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

CT

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/652,359

Applicant(s)

GRUNOW ET AL.

Examiner

Zachary M. Pape

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 September 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because they fail to show "at least one peripheral device" as described in the specification. Any structural detail that is essential for a proper understanding of the disclosed invention should be shown in the drawing. MPEP § 608.02(d). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Won et al. (Patent # 6,744,627) in view of Hamamoto (Patent #6,209,105).

4. With respect to claim 10, Won et al. further teaches the use of a docking system operable to detachably dock a portable device, the system comprising: a pair each of moveable rear latches (67), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches (67) are operable to latch on to corresponding matching slots (17) of the portable device in response to an application of a substantially vertical force on the portable device for docking, and a pair of alignment pins, wherein the pair of alignment pins are operable to mate with corresponding notches on the portable device when the portable device is docked.

(See present office action Fig 1)

5. Won et al. fails to teach the use of moveable front latches and matching slots on the portable device. Hamamoto teaches the use of 2 pairs of latches (5, 6) one pair in the front (near end 3D) and another in the rear (near end 6d) and corresponding slots (15) on the portable device (1). Further Hamamoto re-enforces the use of alignment pins (7) and their corresponding notches (16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the latches and matching slots of Won et al. to include a front pair of each to create a superior means of

attaching the portable computer to the docking station. Using four latches (2 in the front, and 2 in the rear) further re-enforces the connection and would prevent accidental disconnection between each device. (I.E. in the event that the user were to pickup the coupled device by just the portable device portion (11)).

6. With respect to claim 11, Won et al. further teaches a substantially planar bottom section (surrounding 29), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches (17) and moveable front latches are affixed to the bottom section (As illustrated in Fig 1), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches and moveable front latches are aligned substantially perpendicular to the bottom section (As illustrated in Fig 1), a substantially planar top section (surrounding 17) being operative to receive a bottom section of the portable device for docking, wherein the top section includes openings (17) for the pair of moveable rear latches and moveable front latches to permit latching on to corresponding matching slots of the portable device when docked, (Column 5, Lines 28-34) wherein the docking causes the pair of alignment pins included in the top section to mate with the corresponding notches, and four side sections, wherein at least one of the side sections includes a release latch (53) operable to undock the portable device.

7. With respect to claim 12, Won et al. further teaches that the top section includes at least one electrical connector for electrically coupling the portable device to the docking device when docked. (Column 3, Lines 48-52)

8. With respect to claim 13, Won et al. further teaches that applying a vertical force on the portable device causes the pair of moveable rear latches (67) and moveable front latches to be slightly moved in an outwardly or inwardly direction. (Hole 25 allows

for the latch (67) to move outward when a vertical force from the computer comes in contact with them as indicated by the slight angle (Best illustrated in Fig 4a) on the hook member of 67).

9. With respect to claim 14, Won et al. further teaches that the slight movement of the pair of the moveable rear latches and moveable front latches enables the corresponding matching slots to latch in response to the vertical force. (If a vertical force is applied as described in claim 13 above, after the latches are temporarily displaced in the provided groove (25), upon alignment of the matching slots the force on the hook from the spring will allow for the hook to enter into the slot and effectively latch the docking station to the computer).

10. With respect to claim 15, Won et al. teaches that the hook member (67) is displaced as described in claim 13 above, but fails to teach of a specific value (angle). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to displace the hook member (67) by 20 degrees since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

11. With respect to claim 16, Won et al. further teaches that the pair of moveable rear latches and the moveable front latches include a spring mechanism (Fig 4a, 45a(45b), 4b) capable of providing a lateral force to latch the portable device in response to the vertical force, wherein the spring mechanism is in a loaded position while the portable device is being docked and in an unloaded position when the portable device is docked. (Column 4, Line 32 – Column 5, Line 52).

12. With respect to claim 17, Won et al. further teaches that the docking system substantially resembles a rectangular prism.

13. With respect to claim 18, Won et al. teaches the use of an information handling system (11) comprising: a portable device, wherein the portable device includes: a processor, a system bus, a memory coupled to the processor through the system bus, (all such components are inherent in a computer as described by Won et al.) and a docking device (21) having at least one peripheral device (Column 1, Lines 28-31, Column 5, Lines 61-67), wherein the docking device is operable to detachably dock the portable device (via hooks 67), wherein the docking device includes: a pair each of moveable rear latches (67), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches are operable to latch on to corresponding matching slots (17) of the portable device in response to an application of a substantially vertical force on the portable device for docking, a pair of alignment pins (See present office action Fig 1), wherein the pair of alignment pins are operable to mate with corresponding notches (See present office action Fig 1) on the portable device when the portable device is docked, and a connector (29) to electrically couple the processor and the at least one peripheral device when the portable device is docked (Column 3, Lines 49-52).

14. Won et al. fails to teach the use of moveable front latches and matching slots on the portable device. Hamamoto teaches the use of 2 pairs of latches (5, 6) one pair in the front (near end 3D) and another in the rear (near end 6d) and corresponding slots (15) on the portable device (1). Further Hamamoto re-enforces the use of alignment pins (7) and their corresponding notches (16). It would have been obvious to one of

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the latches and matching slots of Won et al. to include a front pair of each to create a superior means of attaching the portable computer to the docking station. Using four latches (2 in the front, and 2 in the rear) further re-enforces the connection and would prevent accidental disconnection between each device. (I.E. in the event that the user were to pickup the coupled device by just the portable device portion (11)).

15. With respect to claim 19, Won et al. further teaches that applying a vertical force causes the pair of moveable rear latches (67) and moveable front latches to be slightly moved in an outwardly or inwardly direction. (Hole 25 allows for the latch (67) to move outward when a vertical force from the computer comes in contact with them as indicated by the slight angle (Best illustrated in Fig 4a) on the hook member of 67).

16. With respect to claim 20, Won et al. further teaches that the pair of moveable rear latches and the moveable front latches include a spring mechanism (Fig 4a, 45a(45b), 4b) capable of providing a lateral force to latch the portable device in response to the vertical force, wherein the spring mechanism is in a loaded position while the portable device is being docked and in an unloaded position when the portable device is docked. (Column 4, Line 32 – Column 5, Line 52).

17. With respect to claim 21 won et al. teaches the use of an information handling system comprising: a portable device (11), wherein the portable device includes: a chassis, a microprocessor mounted in the chassis, a storage device coupled to the microprocessor (inherently a computer must contain a chassis, a microprocessor, and a storage device), and a docking device (21) having at least one peripheral device

(Column 1, Lines 28-31, Column 5, Lines 61-67), wherein the docking device is operable to detachably dock the portable device (via hooks 67), wherein the docking device includes: a pair each of moveable rear latches (67), wherein the pair of moveable rear latches are operable to latch on to corresponding matching slots (17) of the portable device in response to an application of a substantially vertical force on the portable device for docking, a pair of alignment pins (See present office action Fig 1), wherein the pair of alignment pins are operable to mate with corresponding notches (See present office action Fig 1) on the portable device when the portable device is docked, and a connector (29) to electrically couple the processor and the at least one peripheral device when the portable device is docked (Column 3, Lines 49-52).

18. Won et al. fails to teach the use of moveable front latches and matching slots on the portable device. Hamamoto teaches the use of 2 pairs of latches (5, 6) one pair in the front (near end 3D) and another in the rear (near end 6d) and corresponding slots (15) on the portable device (1). Further Hamamoto re-enforces the use of alignment pins (7) and their corresponding notches (16). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to duplicate the latches and matching slots of Won et al. to include a front pair of each to create a superior means of attaching the portable computer to the docking station. Using four latches (2 in the front, and 2 in the rear) further re-enforces the connection and would prevent accidental disconnection between each device. (I.E. in the event that the user were to pickup the coupled device by just the portable device portion (11)).

19. Regarding method claim 1 the method steps recited in the claim is inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Won et al. in view of Hamamoto (as set forth in the rejection to claims 10-21)

20. With respect to claim 2, Won et al. teaches the use of alignment pins included in the docking device with corresponding notches on the portable device. (See present office action Fig 1).

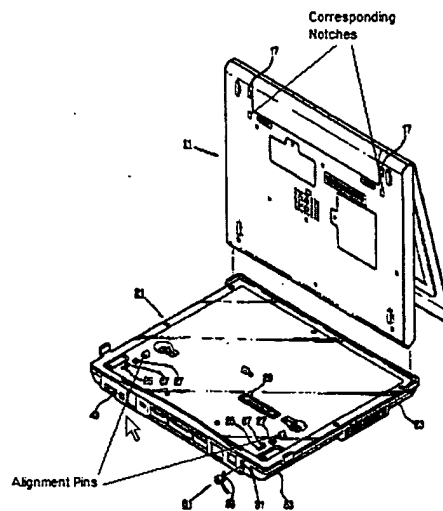


Fig 1

21. With respect to claim 3, the application of the vertical force (to the computer 11 of Won et al.) causes the pair of alignment pins to mate with the corresponding notches.

22. With respect to claim 4, Won et al. further teaches a substantially planar bottom section (surrounding 29), capable of being placed on a stable surface, wherein the pair of moveable rear latches (17) and moveable front latches are affixed to the bottom section, wherein the pair of moveable rear latches and moveable front latches are aligned substantially perpendicular to the bottom section (As illustrated in Fig 1), a

substantially planar top section (surrounding 17) of the portable device for docking, wherein the top section includes openings (17) for the pair of moveable rear latches and moveable front latches to permit latching on to corresponding matching slots of the portable device when docked, (Column 5, Lines 28-34) wherein the docking causes the pair of alignment pins included in the top section to mate with the corresponding notches, and four side sections, wherein at least one of the side sections includes a release latch (53) operable to undock the portable device.

23. With respect to claim 5, Won et al. further teaches that the top section includes at least one electrical connector for electrically coupling the portable device to the docking device when docked. (Column 3, Lines 48-52)

24. With respect to claim 6, Won et al. further teaches that applying a vertical force causes the pair of moveable rear latches (67) and moveable front latches to be slightly moved in an outwardly or inwardly direction. (Hole 25 allows for the latch (67) to move outward when a vertical force from the computer comes in contact with them as indicated by the slight angle (Best illustrated in Fig 4a) on the hook member of 67).

25. With respect to claim 7, Won et al. further teaches that the slight movement of the pair of the moveable rear latches and moveable front latches enables the corresponding matching slots to latch in response to the vertical force. (If a vertical force is applied as described in claim 6 above, after the latches are temporarily displaced in the provided groove, upon alignment of the matching slots the force on the hook from the spring will allow for the hook to enter into the slot and effectively latch the docking station to the computer).

26. With respect to claim 8, Won et al. teaches that the hook member (67) is displaced as described in claim 6 above, but fails to teach of a specific value (angle). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to displace the hook member (67) by 20 degrees since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

With respect to claim 9, Won et al. further teaches that the pair of moveable rear latches and the moveable front latches include a spring mechanism (Fig 4a, 45a(45b), 4b) capable of providing a lateral force to latch the portable device in response to the vertical force, wherein the spring mechanism is in a loaded position while the portable device is being docked and in an unloaded position when the portable device is docked. (Column 4, Line 32 – Column 5, Line 52).

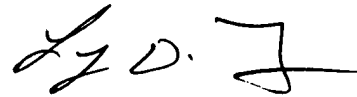
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zachary M. Pape whose telephone number is 571-272-2201. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Thur. & every other Fri. (8:00am - 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached at 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ZMP



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